

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 18, 19, 28 and 29 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 3-7, 18, 19, 28 and 29 were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 1 was amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 18, 19, 28 and 29 are at issue in the above-identified application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 3-7, 18-19, 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shimizu et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,668) in view of *Allen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,199). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

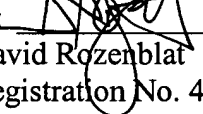
As amended claim 1 recites a printer comprising at least one ink-ejecting mechanism, the at least one ink-ejecting mechanism having a printer head having a print width, a plurality of head chips formed on the printer head, and a plurality of nozzles formed within a plurality of nozzle arrays positioned on a single nozzle plate, the plurality of nozzles associated with each head chip, wherein nozzles associated with one head chip and nozzles associated with an adjacent head chip partly overlap along at least one direction to form an overlapped area on a print object such that when the at least one ink-ejecting mechanism drives across the print object the nozzles of the one head chip and the nozzles of the adjacent head chip respectively eject inks which are mixed in the overlapped area to reduce dot density differences on the print object, *wherein the printer head comprises not more than one nozzle plate*. None of the cited references teach or disclose or even suggest a printer having a printer head which comprises not more than one nozzle plate. For example, *Shimizu et al.* discloses an ink jet head 23 having multiple head units 231, 232, and 233 all attached to a *common plate 234*. *Shimizu et al.* fails to teach or disclose those head units 231, 232, 233 being attached to a *single nozzle plate*. Additionally, while *Allen et al.* teaches a nozzle member 18 having multiple head chips 42, all sharing a single

polymer tape 40 with orifices 16, *Allen et al.* fails to teach a print head which comprises not more than one nozzle plate, since there are at least three nozzle members shown in Fig. 1a of *Allen et al.* and there is nowhere in *Allen et al.* which teaches or suggests using no more than one nozzle member 18. Thus, either alone or in combination, none of the references teach or suggest a printer with a print head that comprises not more than one nozzle plate.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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